



Newsletter

Volume 1 – No. 01

Our First Newsletter

March 2008

The Mercer County Italian-American Festival (Build it and they will come)

Origins of the Festival.

John Scarpati was born and grew up in the Chambersburg area of Trenton, where the Italian American community thrived for decades, establishing its way of life, honoring old traditions brought to this country from Italy, and clinging to an area where all the needs of the community were satisfied. The center of the community was the church of **Saint Joachim**, which held a yearly celebration in honor of the Virgin Mary, following the tradition of the immigrants from **Casandrino**, popularly known as the **Feast of Lights**.

This picture gradually changed as the children of the immigrants, having received better education, began moving away, until the area lost its vitality and identity. The loss of the beloved traditions inspired John to reach out to the Italian American organizations in Mercer County to start a festival that would continue the traditions and showcase the accomplishments of the Italian Americans.

As we all know, his dream has come true, thanks to his untiring efforts and the cooperation of the many volunteers that work all year to bring the festival to life. The festival has grown steadily to attract a crowd of about 100,000 people.

In the words of John, “The festival owes its high rate of growth to the quality of our entertainment, the number and quality of the restaurants serving authentic Italian food and the dedication of our committees to keeping the festival focused on promoting Italian and Italian-American culture to our audiences”



Highlights of the 2007 Festival.

The festival was held September 28, 29 and 30 at Mercer County Park in West Windsor, and for the first time a \$2 adults entrance fee was charged to help defray the ever increasing cost of the non-stop Entertainment, Tents, Police, Fire, EMT Services, Park Rangers and many more services and fees too numerous to list here.

The festival included many Italian cultural attractions, including an Italian Travelogue, Come Meet Columbus, Music for Amore, and the Art of Venetian Mask Making. There were also a marionette puppet show, bocce games and plenty of Italian food specialties offered by many restaurants and available for purchase in the Italian market tent.

Mr. Scarpati said his goal for the festival every year is to keep it focused on its original purpose to promote Italian culture. “I’d like to have more writers, more artists, more sculptors. There are all kinds of possibilities to have participants at a festival like this.”

On the religious side, a Solemn Mass was celebrated on Sunday in honor of the Italian War Veterans and their colleagues with the participation of the Reverend John Smith, Bishop of Trenton, Monsignor Innocenzi, several local clergymen and the Knights of Columbus. This special Mass was attended by hundreds of faithful Catholics.

Mr. Scarpati said he hopes that festival goers of all ethnic backgrounds walked away feeling that they had learned something Italian. He wants them to be able to say, “I felt like I was an Italian for a day.”

More information about the festival plus Travel directions can be found on the Festival’s website www.italianamericanfestival.com or by calling the office at (609) 631-7544.

(More on Festival Continued inside.....)



(Continued from Page 1)

The Festival Organization (MCIAFA)

The Festival is run by the Mercer County Italian American Festival Association (MCIAFA), located in the Italian Heritage Center at 2421 Liberty Street, Hamilton, NJ, Tel. 609 631 7544.

The organization is composed of John Scarpati, President; Frank Cirillo, Vice President; Michael Rossetti, 2nd Vice President; Trustees are Mario Casale, Gary Carbone, Ed DiPolvere, Gus Perilli and Danielle Scarpati. Other officers include Phil Vecere, Treasurer, Louise Konjushok, Secretary, Nina VanDeleur, Administrative Assistant; and Anthony Massi, Attorney.

This team is supported by over thirty committee chairs and about 150 volunteers who dedicate countless hours of their time and work all year to prepare for the three day event. It is because of the efforts of the entire team, led by example by the President, that the festival can exist and provide such an outlet for Italian pride for the Italian Americans of Mercer County and the State

The 2008 9th Annual Festival

John and his committees are already hard at work planning and preparing for this year's festival scheduled for September 26, 27 and 28. They are always looking for volunteers that can help in the various committees and welcome any support and talent that you can bring to the festival.

MCIAFA's Balance Sheet.

The festival has become a large event and produces significant monies that are used to pay off the debt incurred in the purchase of the Heritage Center Building, its upgrade and maintenance, the provision of scholarships, and the support of many charitable community organizations.

A snapshot of the finances for the year 2006 (*2007 figures are not yet audited*) can convey an idea of the magnitude of the effort. These figures are taken from the Financial Statement issued by the firm of Pisauero, Levy & Palumbo, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants in Ewing, NJ, the auditors for the Association.

MCIAFA –Financial Summary 2006

Support and Revenues

Contributions	50,900
Festival Income	292,161
Special Events	32,046
Donated Items and Facilities	29,800
Interest	537
Other	8,500
Total Support and Revenues	413,944

Expenses

Festival	250,264
Fundraising	48,902
Operations	75,288

Total Expenses 374,454

Net Revenue 39,490

MCI AF Executive Board

Title	Name	Chair	Contact
President	Cav. John Scarpati		609-631-7544
Vice President	Frank Cirillo		609-396-7619
2nd Vice President	Michael Rossetti		609-977-0921
Trustee	Gus Perilli		609-695-1849
Trustee	Danielle Scarpati		609-274-6999
Trustee	Mario Casale		609-587-5286
Trustee	Ed DiPolvere		609-586-2684
Trustee	Gary Carbone		609-587-2479
Treasurer	Phil Vecere		609-882-6638
Secretary	Louise Konjushok		609-586-0696
Attorney	Anthony Massi		609-890-2273

Committee Representatives

Amusements	Nicholas DeVito	Co-CP	609-586-3808
Amusements	Rich DeVito	CP	609-586-3808
Beer / Wine Sales	Christine Scarpati		609-396-7040
Beer Court	Christine Scarpati	Co-CP	609-396-7040
Bocce	Ron Ungarini	CP	609-883-
7948 Cultural Court	John Prunetti	CP	609-771-0687
Cultural Theater	Gilda Rorro-Baldassari	CP	609-587-7000
Entertainment	Cav. Carl Carabelli	CP	609-586-9010
Festival Entrance			
Ticket Sales	RoseAnn Cofone	CP	609-208-4068
Festival Logo			
Merchandise Sales	Diana Curiale	CP	609-838-0021
Festival Photography	Paul Donini		609-658-7940
Food Vendors	Frank Cirillo	CP	609-396-7619
Food Vendors	Bill Hillman	Co-CP	609-585-9310
In-House Publicity	Nina VanDeleur	CP	609-631-7544
Italian Heritage			
Memorabilia	Anthony Chianese	CP	609-586-0312
	John Ricco		609-586-7724
Local Fundraising	Gino Melone	CP	609-396-1819
Local Fundraising	Vince Colletti	Co-CP	609-989-1298
Local Fundraising	Marion Bolton	Co-CP	609-396-2944
Pasta Dinner			
Fundraising	Mario Casale	CP	609-587-5286
Car Raffle	Joe Sensi	CP	
Signs & Banners	Ed DiPolvere	CP	609-586-2684
Signs & Banners	Gus Perilli		609-695-1849
Signs & Banners	George Mirabelli		609-396-1064
Site Operations	Joe Povia		609-587-4524
Site Operations	Wayne DeAngelo	CP	609-586-6877
Sponsorship			
& Marketing	Barry Chiorello	CP	609-695-5007
Senior Citizen			
Involvement	Tina D'Orio	CP	609-890-4111
	Donna Povia		609-588-5458
Sunday Mass	Shannon Scarpati		609-695-4928
Sunday Mass	Luann Scarpati	CP	609-695-4928
Volunteers	Danielle Scarpati	Co-CP	609-588-5141
Volunteers	Christine Scarpati	Co-CP	609-396-7040
Waste Disposal	John Scarpati Jr.	CP	609-584-8907
Website	Mike Rossetti	CP	609-977-0921
Website	Mike Aregnano		609-713-2670
Admin. Assistant	Nina VanDeleur		609-631-7544

MCIAFA Newsletter		
Editor	Cav. Frank Gargione	609-883-4778
Co Editor- Design	Joe De Felice	609-841-5427
Production	Jack Beiger	
Distribution	Lucy Gargione	

ITALIAN COURSE OFFERED AT HERITAGE CENTER

2421 Liberty Street Hamilton, NJ 08629

The Italian Heritage Center is offering a basic course based on the Standard Deviants **ITALIAN** videotapes. The course will be augmented with live conversation emphasizing interaction with the participants and written material will be provided to enable retention of concepts learned during the lesson.

The ten-lesson course will be offered on the **second and last Thursdays of the month**, from 7:30 to 9:00 PM,
NOTE: The first class will be held on **March 13th**.

A fee of \$25.00 will be charged to defray the cost of supplies. Children under 12 accompanied by Adult, No Charge. PLEASE call and reserve your spot ASAP.

The course will be moderated by **Cav. Frank Gargione**, a Commissioner of the NJ Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission, and a native of Italy fluent in Italian.

Standard Deviants is the nation's leading producer of educational videos and DVDs for high school and college students. The company has become synonymous with excellence, providing programming to over 3,000 accounts ranging from Blockbuster, Wal*Mart and Target to specialty retailers and educational institutions.

Standard Deviants has taken the educational media category by storm and has experienced phenomenal growth since its inception in 1993. Their mission is to combine solid educational content with cutting-edge technology and top-notch writing.

Recommended by more than 500 teachers and college professors, Standard Deviants programming covers the most difficult high school and college courses. Each Standard Deviants title is written by an academic team comprised of professors from leading universities, including Yale, University of Virginia, George Washington University and Georgetown University, to name a few.



Family / la Famiglia

ENGLISH	ITALIAN	
aunt	<i>la zia</i>	la see-ya
boy	<i>il ragazzo</i>	ra-ghat-zo
brother	<i>il fratello</i>	fra-tell-oh
cousin (female)	<i>la cugina</i>	coo jean-uh
cousin (male)	<i>il cugino</i>	coo-jeen-oh
daughter	<i>la figlia</i>	feel-ya
daughter-in-law	<i>la nuora</i>	nwar-uh
family	<i>la famiglia</i>	fah-meel-ya
father	<i>il padre</i>	pah-dray
father-in-law	<i>il suocero</i>	swah-kuh-ro
girl	<i>la ragazza</i>	rah-ghat-zah
grandchild	<i>il nipote</i>	eel nee-po-teh
granddaughter	<i>la nipote</i>	la nee-po-teh
grandfather	<i>il nonno</i>	eel no-noh
grandmother	<i>la nonna</i>	lah no-nah
grandparents	<i>i nonni</i>	eee no-knee
grandson	<i>il nipote</i>	eel nee-po-tuh
husband	<i>il marito</i>	eel ma-ree-toh
mother	<i>la madre</i>	la ma-dray
mother-in-law	<i>la suocera</i>	lah soo-er-chera
nephew	<i>il nipote</i>	eel nee-po-tay
niece	<i>la nipote</i>	la nee-po-tay
parents	<i>i genitori</i>	ee gen-ee-toree
relative	<i>il parente</i>	eel pah-ren-tay
sister	<i>la sorella</i>	lah sor-rella
sister-in-law	<i>la cognata</i>	lah coin-yah-ta
son	<i>il figlio</i>	eel feel-yoh
son-in-law	<i>il genero</i>	eel gen-eroh
uncle	<i>lo zio</i>	low zee-oh
wife	<i>la moglie</i>	lah moil-yeh

Italian Course Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

***Fee (\$25) Make Check Payable to MCI AFA
Bring form and check to first night. Please call and
reserve your spot in this course.***

Reservations and QUESTIONS????.... call 609-631-7544

Russ Columbo

(100th Anniversary of his birth)

The Romeo of Song. Gone too Soon.

(Thanks to The ANNOTICO Report for this.)

He was "The Romeo of Song," "The Singing Valentino," and "Radio's Revelation." From 1931 until 1934, he, Bing Crosby, and Rudy Vallee were crooning rivals for the public's attention. His incredible talent encompassed recordings as a violinist, and vocalist, radio, and ultimately the brink of film stardom. His records are considered musical standards of the 1930s. He was a comet in the entertainment industry for a three-year period, illuminating Los Angeles' Cocoanut Grove nightclub, Brooklyn's Paramount Theater, Manhattan's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, and entertainment giants NBC, RCA, and Universal Pictures. But like a comet, he passed through our universe all too quickly. He died at 26, the victim of an accidental shooting by his closest friend. Bing Crosby was to have said, that had he lived, Russ could have become a bigger star than Bing himself.

Russ Columbo was born January 14, 1908, in Camden, New Jersey, the twelfth child of Italian immigrants Nicola and Giulia. He was christened **Ruggiero Eugenio di Rodolpho Colombo**. Legend places his birth in San Francisco or Philadelphia, but his death certificate states New Jersey. The Colombo family moved back to Philadelphia when Ruggiero was about five years old, and when he was eight headed west to California, residing in the San Francisco and Calistoga areas before moving to Los Angeles.

All news accounts identify the young Ruggiero Colombo as a child prodigy, mastering the violin at the age of five, and his family's frequent movement was said to allow Ruggiero the opportunity to continue his violin studies under the tutelage of Alexander Bevani. At the age of 13, "Russ" made his professional debut at the Imperial Theater in San Francisco. The abbreviated "Russ" came from a childhood friend's inability to fully pronounce Italian. In 1931 the second "o" in his last name was replaced with the more phonetic "u." This gave rise to the legend that Russ was a direct descendant of Christopher Columbus.

He was romantically linked to a former Miss Universe, a screwball comedienne, and then engaged to one of Hollywood's top stars, Carole Lombard. The same Carole Lombard who married Clark Gable, and died in a 1942 plane crash.

Book:

You Call It Madness: The Sensuous Song of the Croon, Lenny Kaye, Villard: 512 pp., \$25.95

Excerpts from this book review.....

Capitalizing on his swarthy good looks and a voice blessed by the microphone, he becomes famous as a soloist and composer of future standards such as "*You Call It Madness but I Call It Love*" and "*Prisoner of Love*"; becoming a serious threat to the slightly older Bing Crosby and Rudy Vallee.

He would be, first and foremost, a singer. From the start, his style was authoritative. His diction was crystalline yet never quite academic, more period gesture than affectation. ..Best of all, his phrasing is supple, relaxed, conversational with the playful empathy of a partner dancing cheek to cheek. Exquisite calibration of melody, sentiment and meter define his vocal art.

After Russ' death, his siblings inform their mother that he is touring abroad, and she dies happy 10 years later.

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI

born: 12-10-1935 Modena, Italy

Died at home 9-06-2007

Probably the most popular tenor since Caruso, Luciano Pavarotti combined accuracy of pitch and quality of sound production with a natural musicality. His favorite roles were Rodolfo in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and Riccardo in Verdi's *Un Ballo Maschera*.

As a boy, Pavarotti enjoyed local fame as a member of the town's soccer team, and first sang in the chorus with his father, a fine amateur tenor and devoted opera buff. When the chorus won first prize in an international competition, the young singer's career began. His solo debut came in 1961, portraying Rodolfo in a performance of 'La Bohème' at the opera house in Reggio Emilia. Early success led to engagements throughout Italy and eventually Amsterdam, Vienna, Zurich and London. Pavarotti's American debut came in February 1965, in a Miami production of 'Lucia di Lammermoor', but the Pavarotti phenomenon began in earnest in 1972, during a performance of 'La Fille du Regiment', at New York's Metropolitan Opera. After his effortless completion of an aria containing nine high Cs, the audience erupted in prolonged applause, and his stardom was secured.

In 1977, Pavarotti reprised the role of Rodolfo for the premiere episode of the long-running '*Live at the Met*' television series, going on to appear in over a dozen broadcasts from the Lincoln Centre. His entire stage repertory has been recorded, and he has sold millions of copies of his solo albums of opera arias, traditional music, and holiday favorites.

Throughout the 1980s Pavarotti strengthened his status as one of the opera world's leading figures. Televised performances of Pavarotti in many of his greatest and favorite roles not only helped him maintain his status, but to broaden his appeal. He was able to reach millions of viewers each time one of his opera performances and solo concerts was seen. He also began to show increasing flexibility as a recording artist. He recorded classical operas, songs by Henry Mancini and Italian folk songs, thus becoming the world's third highest top selling musician, right behind Madonna and Elton John. By the time he proposed and staged the first "Three Tenors" concert at the Baths of Caracalla in Rome, Pavarotti was unabashedly thrilled with his immense popularity. "I want to be famous everywhere" he told *Newsweek* and he continually showed his appreciation to the fans that made him. "I tell you, the time spent signing autographs is never enough" he continued in the same interview.

Some of his greatest success was achieved in the company of Placido Domingo and José Carreras, performing as the **Three Tenors**. Their most famous collaboration must surely be '*Nessun Dorma*', the theme for the 1990 football World Cup. Arguably no other opera singer in music history achieved the level of international celebrity as tenor Luciano Pavarotti.

The singer had three children from his marriage to Adua Veroni. In early 2003 his partner Nicoletta Mantovani gave birth to twins, one of whom sadly died. Pavarotti married Mantovani on December 13, 2003, at a ceremony in Northern Italy. She was 34 years his junior

2008 MCIAFA Very Special Raffle
2008 Mercedes-Benz
C-350 Sport Sedan

Raffle Tickets \$100 each

Limited to 1,000 tickets

WINNER Drawing Sunday September 28, 2008

For more information call 609-631-7544
Leave Message for Chairman Joe Sensi

2008 Mercedes-Benz C-class

Welcome to the German autobahn, the first leg of our cross-Europe trek behind the wheel of the 2008 Mercedes-Benz C-class. Although officially limited to 155 mph, the speedometer reads 163 mph when the limiter finally calls time. At this speed, the C350 is totally unperturbed. Expansion joints? No effect, even when you're really flying. Test-of-courage corners? Easy. Turn the wheel, keep your foot down, and marvel. Clueless slower drivers swerving left without so much as a flash of the turn signal? Don't worry, this car has good brakes. Make that very good brakes.

Between 70 and 150 mph, you really appreciate the seven-speed autobox. Seven gears mean more time at the power peak and less time in the engine's soft zone. Our gasoline-powered C350 averaged 18 mpg. Not exactly frugal, but not totally excessive, either. At this rate, one 17.4-gallon tank is good for slightly more than 300 miles.



The Sport model's standard body kit makes this four-door sedan even more desirable. The AMG-designed livery includes a meaner front bumper with big air intakes, pleasantly subtle sill extensions, and a contrasting rear apron that emphasizes the twin chrome tailpipes.

To keep its passengers safe, the new C-class comes with six air bags and antiwhiplash front head restraints.

Volunteer Appreciation
MCIAFA Picnic

Saturday June 7th, 2008
Save The Date

Food, Games, Entertainment, etc.
Guest Tickets Available
Complete Information Next Newsletter

2008 Festival Super 50/50 Tickets

On Sale starting March 2008
Continuing thru Saturday Night
Drawing for Winner at 10PM
2007 Super 50/50 reached \$33,000
How high will 2008 prize go???
For more information call 609-396-3412
Chairman Gino Melone

MCIAFA Planning Calendar

Monthly Scheduled Events- On-going

1st Monday MCIAFA meeting
Last Thursday ... Dinner Buffet Fundraiser

March

Raffle Tickets Go on Sale (Car and SUPER 50/50)
13th - ITALIAN Classes Registration and Orientation
20th - MEN's NIGHT

April

- 2nd Quarter Newsletter Mailing

June

Saturday 7th 1st Annual MCIAFA Picnic
Monday 23rd GOLF Tournament Benefit MCIAFA and
Boys Town of Italy

August

-Special FESTIVAL EDITION Newsletter Mailing

September

26, 27, 28 Annual Festival Weekend

October (Italian American Heritage Month)

10th - Annual Columbus Day Ball
11th - Hamilton Columbus Day Parade
12th - Columbus Day

November

- 4rd Quarter Newsletter Mailing

Questo e Quello

We are planning an MCIAFA BOCCE LEAGUE
for play at Mercer County Park in West Windsor.
If interested, CONTACT Ron Ungarini (609-883-7948)
or Email Ron at RONU_MISC@comcast.net.

Monsignor Innocenzi was honored by the Knights of
Columbus - Trenton Council on Saturday 2/23/2008

Open Invitation to Mercer County Italian-American Organizations

The Mercer County Italian American Festival Association would like to extend an invitation to Italian American organizations **in Mercer County** to be featured in our Newsletter, and also on our website *Community Calendar*. to publicize its activities. This offer is made in the spirit of unity and cooperation that are the hallmark of the Festival Association. **Please contact John Scarpati at 609 731 7544 or Frank Gargione at 609 883 4778.**

We begin this series with the National Italian American Hall of Fame, an associated member organization of MCIAFA.

The National Italian American Hall of Fame

NIAHOF National Headquarters
P.O. Box 3442
Mercerville, New Jersey 08619

The Italian-American National Hall of Fame is dedicated to recognizing and perpetuating the memory of the consistently outstanding contributions by Italian-Americans to their communities, the country and the world.

These goals are achieved by organizing events and programs paying tribute to the Italian ancestry, by honoring those Italian-Americans who brought credit to themselves and the community, by saluting those who contributed to the welfare of the community, by paying tribute to law enforcement officers and firemen who lost their life in the line of duty, by providing assistance to those stricken by disaster and by promoting scholarships in the education of Italian-American young men and women.

The organization promotes the Italian language, supports the humanities, organizes cultural events and assists in Genealogy research.

On May 3, 2008, NIAHOF will host its 33rd Annual Induction and Awards Ceremony at the Tropicana Hotel and Resort in Atlantic City, NJ. This year's honorees are **Cavaliere Joseph Coccia**, Coccia Institute, Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ; **Mrs. Janet Dillione-Connor**, President, Healthcare IT Division, Siemens Medical Solutions; **A.J. Buddy Fortunato**, Publisher, The Italian Tribune Newspaper and **Mary Nicola Ferri**, President, Boheme Opera Guild, Hamilton, NJ. The event is a Black Tie affair and is open to the public. In addition to the cocktail reception and dinner, the ticket will include one entry into our drawing for a round trip to Italy for two. For ticket information, please contact the Italian American National Hall of Fame at **609-586-9010**.

NIAHOF currently has open membership. Regular Membership is open to Italian Americans, while Associate Membership is open to all. *For information on joining and or other activities please contact Carl Carabelli, President, at 609 586-9010 or write to the address above.*

NIAHOF EXECUTIVE BOARD

Carl H. Carabelli	President
Dominic Vitale	Vice President
Joseph La Rocco	Treasurer
Florence Carabelli	Correspondence Secretary
Diane Vitale	Recording Secretary
Dominick Pizarro	Board Member
Gilda Baldassari	Board Member
Jeanne Shiarappa	Board Member
Nina Van DeLeur	Board Member
Louis Stanziale	Board Member
Marie Jantos	Board Member
Ann Lennon	Board Member
Frank Masterson	Board Member
Patricia Masterson	Board Member
Ann Pantaleoni	Board Member
Vivian Pepe	Board Member
Ann Vispeti	Trustee
Don Schiarappa	Trustee

NIAHOF AWARD CATEGORIES

- ◆ Humanitarian Award
- ◆ Citizens of the Year Award
- ◆ Community Service Award
- ◆ Media Award
- ◆ Sportsman Award
- ◆ Entertainer Award
- ◆ Arts and Science Award
- ◆ Medal of Valor

Italian International Nobel Prize Laureates

Giosuè Carducci - Nobel Prize in Literature – 1906
Camillo Golgi - Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine – 1906
Ernesto Teodoro Moneta - Nobel Peace Prize – 1907
Guglielmo Marconi - Nobel Prize in Physics – 1909
Grazia Deledda - Nobel Prize in Literature – 1926
Luigi Pirandello - Nobel Prize in Literature – 1934
Enrico Fermi - Nobel Prize in Physics – 1938
Salvatore Quasimodo - Nobel Prize in Literature – 1959
Emilio Segrè - Nobel Prize in Physics – 1959
Giulio Natta - Nobel Prize in Chemistry – 1963
Salvador E. Luria - Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine - 1969
Eugenio Montale - Nobel Prize in Literature – 1975
Renato Dulbecco - Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine – 1975
Carlo Rubbia - Nobel Prize in Physics – 1984
Franco Modigliani - Nobel Prize in Economics – 1985
Rita Levi-Montalcini - Nobel Prize in Medicine – 1986
William D. Phillips - Nobel Prize in Physics – 1997
Dario Fò - Nobel Prize in Literature – 1997
Riccardo Giacconi - Nobel Prize in Physics – 2002
 Mario R. Capecchi - Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine 2006



Mercer County Italian American Festival Association



Free Associate Membership Application Form

Come join one of the largest and fastest growing Associations in Mercer County!

Membership is **FREE** and you will be put on our mailing list automatically.

We just ask that you help promote our heritage and events.

If you would like to be active, here are some of the activities you may want to participate in:

Please check next to where interested:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Office Work | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Help with On-Site Operations at Festival | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Maintenance Help at MCI AF Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Join a Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ 50/50 On-site sales | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Columbus Day Parade |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Help at Other Events at MCI AF Center | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Vendor |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Help at Monthly Dinners | |

Name: _____ Address: _____

Occupation: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____ E-mail _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE OR CALL: Cav. John Scarpati, President

MCI AF 2421 Liberty St. Hamilton, N.J. 08629 – phone 609-631-7544.

Website: www.italianamericanfestival.com mail: mciafa@optonline.net

We are a non-profit 503-C organization dedicated to promoting Italian-American Heritage and Culture

Donations are tax deductible and are appreciated.

Our Inaugural Issue

Anyone who knows John Scarpati is aware of how hard he works to promote the Italian Heritage and Culture. He is constantly looking for ways to reach more people, which we hope to do through this newsletter. As we go to press with this our Inaugural Issue of the MCI AF Newsletter we want to share with you our goals and purposes we have set out to accomplish.

We intend to print worthwhile, truthful and interesting information to complement the purpose of the MCI AF in promoting Italian-American Heritage and Culture. We hope to do that by including features on the Italian language, *la bella lingua*, Regions and Travel data, Famous Italians, and Famous Italian-Americans from the early immigrants who helped build our great New World, to their present descendants.

This is my first attempt at this, but I am grateful to Joe De Felice for agreeing to collaborate on this endeavor and to bring his extensive expertise, research files and photos, and his unbounded energy to us as he did as the Originator and Editor of the *Amici Della Lingua Italiana Newsletter*.

All suggestions and comments are always welcome.

Frank Gargione Email: frankgargione3@msn.com

Joe DeFelice Email: amici_joe@virtualital.com

Jack Beiger Email ourtownnj@aol.com

The Italian Flag - Italy's Tricolore

Any idea what the colors red, white, and green on the Italian flag represent? The answer might be in *Dante's Divine Comedy*. Dante wrote that there are three cardinal virtues: **hope, faith, and charity**. Green symbolizes hope, white symbolizes faith, and red symbolizes charity.

How do the colors appear on the flag? The green is next to the pole, the white is the middle section, and the red is at the end, a design inspired by the French Revolution. The king's coat of arms was added to the white section when Italy was united, but when Italy became a republic, the Savoy coat of arms was removed.

The national tricolor is honored at all public events. When displayed with other flags it occupies the place of honor, that is at the highest point or to the right. And like the United States' red, white, and blue, the flag is raised at dawn, lowered at sunset, and flown at half mast in times of mourning.

Burn or deface the Italian flag? **Never!** Italian law provides for punishment of one to three years in prison.

Information found in the newspaper "La Gazzetta Italiana"



Mercer County Italian American Festival

Volume 1 – No. 01

Our First Newsletter

March 2008



MCIAF 2007 Budweiser Clydesdales



Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Trenton, NJ
Permit No.
312

Mercer County Italian-American Festival
Association
Italian-American Heritage Center
2421 Liberty Street
Hamilton, NJ 08629



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